

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 03348 201557Z
ACTION EUR-12

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USDOCOSOUTH
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CINCUSAFE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, GR, TU, CY
SUBJECT: REACTION TO HIRC HEARINGS AND TO CYPRUS DEVELOPMENTS

REF: A) NICOSIA 1049, B) ATHENS 3285

1. CYPRUS AND THE TURKISH EMBARGO ISSUE CONTINUE AS A
PRINCIPAL NEWS ITEM IN GREECE. THE INFLUENTIAL GOVERNMENT-
CONTROLLED RADIO AND TV NEWS PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHTED COVERAGE
OF THE APRIL 19 HIRC HEARINGS ON THE LIFTING OF THE ARMS
EMBARGO ON TURKEY, WITH EMPHASIS GIVEN TO TESTIMONY AGAINST THE
RESCINDING OF THE EMBARGO. SECRETARY VANCE'S REFERENCES TO
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THE CYPRUS QUESTION DURING HIS ADDRESSES AT THE CENTO MEETING
IN LONDON AND THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S COMMENTS ON THE
ALLEGATIONS THAT TURKISH AIRCRAFT HAD VIOLATED CYPRIOT AIRSPACE
WERE ALSO HIGHLIGHTED IN THE REPORTS. AMONG THE MORNING NEWSPAPERS,
ONLY PRO-GOVERNMENT AKROPOLIS AND LIBERAL OPPOSITION TO VIMA
CARRIED STORIES ON THE CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS. HOWEVER, ALL
THE AFTERNOON PRESS GAVE BROADER PLAY TO THE TESTIMONY OF THE

VARIOUS WITNESSES.

2. MUCH PRESS COVERAGE DEALT WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN CYPRUS SURROUNDING THE VISIT OF UNSYG WALDHEIM, WITH PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU'S PRESS CONFERENCE (REFTEL A) AS THE FOCAL POINT. WALDHEIM'S REMARKS TO MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES AT HIS DEPARTURE FROM CYPRUS WERE ALSO COVERED IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL. MOST ACCOUNTS WERE GENERALLY STRAIGHT FORWARD, ALTHOUGH MANY HEADLINES INDICATED THAT THE TURKISH PROPOSALS WERE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT. BUT TODAY, ONLY THE ORTHODOX COMMUNIST RIZOSPASTIS IN ITS HEADLINES AND PRO-GOVERNMENT VRADYNI EDITORIALY HELD THAT THE TURKISH PROPOSALS DID NOT JUSTIFY RESUMPTION OF THE INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS.

3. SO FAR, THE GOG HAS NOT COMMENTED ON THE TURKISH PROPOSALS BEYOND PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS' INITIAL STATEMENT (REFTEL B). IN THIS REGARD, ULTRA CONSERVATIVE ESTIA CHIDED CARAMANLIS FOR NOT BEING AS CATEGORIC AS KYPRIANOU IN REJECTING THE PROPOSALS.
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